

28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein the soluble extracellular TACI is TACI-Fc.

REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 15-28 in order to more particularly claim various aspects of the elected invention, and in order to present claims more amenable to examination. The new claims add no new matter and are supported by the specification as filed by claims 1-11 and at, for example, page 10, line 4 to page 11, line 7 and page 8, lines 5-9.

Applicants traverse, in part, the restriction requirement and request that it be modified so that groups I, II and III are examined together. Applicants submit that because each of these groups is in the same class (class 435), and because groups I and II are in the same subclass (subclass 7.2), that a search and examination of these groups together would not be unduly burdensome. In addition, to facilitate the examination process, Applicants have presented new claims 14-28 that relate these groups as a unified invention.

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above amendments prior to examination of the instant application. If the Examiner believes that any issues outstanding could be addressed by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone to undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Date: Aug. 21, 2000

Signed: Nanci Kertson
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